

Appl. No. 10/550,056
Amendment dated: April 22, 2009
Reply to OA of: January 22, 2009

REMARKS

Applicants have cancelled claims 15 and 21 from the application without prejudiced or disclaimer and confirmed the election of the previously presented claims. Applicants retain the right to file a divisional application to the non-elected subject matter.

The rejections of claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first and second paragraphs have been obviated by the cancellation of claim 21 from the application without prejudiced or disclaimer.

The rejection of claims 1, 2, 12 and 16- 20 under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being obvious over Tanaka et al in view of Comiskey et al has been carefully considered but is most respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

At the outset, Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy of the telephone interview in connection with the above identified application in which it was confirmed that the reference to Hanaoka et al was in error and the intention was that this is the Tanaka et al reference. Applicants have therefore accordingly argued the rejection with respect to the Tanaka et al reference.

Tanaka et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,780,490) relates to a tray produced by molding a conductive thermoplastic resin composition containing a conductive loading material to be prevented from suffering electrical damage. Although the cut surfaces of the tray of Tanaka et al can be prevented from electrical damage, it is due to the conductive loading materials which are contained into a conductive thermoplastic resin composition to be formed into the tray by molding. In other words, the base material of the tray of Tanaka et al has the inherent conductive property due to the conductive loading materials. Therefore if a portion of the tray is cut, the portion does not lose the conductive property.

It is considered that the above technical features of the Tanaka et al are already disclosed in a tray with a compound composed of a pre-mixture of an antistatic

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component and the polymer material in the Background Art (page 2 lines 11-21) in the present specification. Thus, nothing new is added to the prior art as discussed in the present application and this additional reference does not render obvious the presently claimed subject matter.

Comiskey et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,473, 073) discloses the technique to obtain a conductive pattern where the rear electrode is made of polymer film coated with conductive material. Cominskey et al does not relate to a technique of making an antistatic property for a tray and is not combinable with the primary reference to render the claim subject matter obvious.

On the other hand, the present invention is to provide a method of providing a desired range of point-to-ground resistance to trays, by coating the polymer film with a conductive solution to prepare a conductive sheet having an antistatic layer thereon, forming a tray having cut surfaces with the conductive sheet, and by forming a conductive pathway on all, or parts, of the cut surfaces of the tray.

Since the tray of Tanaka et al makes a problem that the conductive loading materials breed out from the tray and contaminate the electronics device, such as a head stack assembly. Therefore, in order to prevent the above problem, the present invention uses a conductive sheet having an antistatic layer to make a tray and the technique of producing the tray of the present invention is different from that of the tray of Tanake et al.

Because the tray used in the present invention could be made of the normal polymer sheet without the conductive property, the polymer sheet should be coated with a conductive solution so that the tray obtains the conductive property. In case a portion of the tray is cut, the portion does not have the conductive property. Therefore the purpose of the present invention is to provide a conductibe pathway on all, or parts, of the cut surfaces of the tray.

Trays for carrying selectronic parts are usually produced by using the polymer films with the antistatic layer to have the antistatic property. However, the films should

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be cut to be formed into trays, and the trays should have cut portions. Although the antistatic later has conductive property, electrons may be charged at the cut portions. The charged electrons can damage electronic parts into the tray. The present invention is made for preventing electrons discharge from damaging the electronic parts in the tray having the cut portions by being produced using the film. In other words, the method of providing a desired range of point-to ground resistance to trays according to the present invention is not made for the tray of Tanaka et al that is produced by molding a conductive thermoplastic resin composition containing a conductive loading material, as the inventors revealed in the background art (page 2, lines 11-21; page 3, lines 12-23). Accordingly, it is most respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the above comments and further amendments to the claims, favorable reconsideration and allowance of all the claims now present in the application are most respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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